

RESPONSE TO DETAILED ACTION

The applicants accept the examiners apology for misinterpreting the scope of the claims of the previous office action. The undersigned submits that any "second eyes look" be done before an initial office action is sent to the applicants so as to avoid the unnecessary expenditure of time responding to two office actions.

CLAIM REJECTIONS - 35 U.S.C. SECTION 103

Claim 7-9, 11-15 and 17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. section 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Aycock et al. The applicants respectively disagree with this rejection. In particular, Aycock fails completely to disclose any steps of the rejected claims, or of claims 1-6 (which were previously cancelled in response to the first office action allowance of claims 7-17). Aycock describes an interactive evaluation of suppliers as proposed vendors for a project. Aycock does not disclose anything regarding die materials or methods for testing the quality of heat-treated steel used in the construction of a die. The general proposition that generally qualifying a supplier as a potential vendor obviates any other process or method for qualifying a material for use in ones business is absurd and legally unsupportable. The examiner has not identified any part of Aycock which specifically addresses any part of applicants invention relating to qualifying die materials. There is simply nothing in Aycock that teaches or suggests any part of applicants invention, and the examiner is not able to identify specific columns, line numbers, or figures that even remotely describe, teach or suggest applicants invention.

Despite the complete absence of support for the examiners rejection, applicants have amended claims 7 and 13 to incorporate the limitations of claims 10 and 16 along with any intervening claim limitations, for the sole purpose of having the case allowed. The amendments have been made solely for administrative purposes and not for substantive purposes.

Claims 8, 9, 10, and 16 have been cancelled for the reasons stated above. The applicants respectfully submit that claims 7, 11 -

15, and 17 are in condition for allowance, such action is earnestly solicited.

The examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned should there be any questions with regard to this response or to this patent application.

Please charge any cost incurred in the filing of this Amendment, along with any other costs, to Deposit Account 06-1510. If there are insufficient funds in this account, please charge the fees to Deposit Account No.06-1505.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "David Kelley", is written over a horizontal line.

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